



The CSO Project Unearths Seattle's Past

The above photo, dated May 12, 1913, shows the railroad tracks along Elliott Bay, north of Bay Street. A seawall is under construction on the west side of the tracks and what is now Elliott Avenue West is on pilings to the east. Queen Anne Hill is located in the background on the right. (Photo courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives Photograph Collection.)

Tunneling
obstructions
reveal the early
history of Seattle's
waterfront.

The original shoreline in the area of Myrtle Edwards Park and Elliott Bay Park was in the vicinity of today's Elliott Avenue West. The street and the first railroad tracks in this area were built on trestles. Over time, the shoreline was moved to the west by filling the trestle area and building new timber and rock bulkheads. Each time the shoreline was extended, the previous shore protection was buried in place. This piece of Seattle's history became relevant to construction of the Denny Way CSO Project when geotechnical investigations revealed the abandoned seawalls lying in the path of the tunneling process.

As part of the Denny Way Project, three pipelines need to cross the 13 sets of railroad tracks west of the Elliott West site. Two of those pipelines will be deep—about 35 feet below the surface—and will be

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